

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice and add new claims 8-13. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

**Rejections under § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korg, which was obtained from an Internet archive, in view of the allegedly admitted prior art. Applicants have canceled claims 1-7 without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

**New Claims 8-11**

New claim 8 is directed to a recording/reproducing mixer. The mixer comprises “a solo mode selector that selects a solo mode” and “a solo channel selector that selects at least one of the plurality of input channels for the solo mode.” Support for these recitations is found in the specification and drawings including, without limitation, at page 13, lines 1-11 and Fig. 5A.

Claim 8 also recites “a listening mode selector that selects a listening mode” and “a track selector that selects at least one of the plurality of tracks of the recorder/reproducer.” Support for these recitations is found in the specification and drawings including, without limitation, at page 13, line 14 to page 14, line 14 and Fig. 5B.

In this manner, the recording/reproducing mixer of claim 8 allows a user, in the solo mode, to monitor mixed audio signals of only one or more selected tracks and, in the listening mode, to monitor audio signal(s) having not been subjected to mixing. Claim 8 recites: “an output controller that controls the channel selector to select the input channel selected by the solo channel selector instead of the input channel originally selected by the channel selector for the solo mode, and controls the output device to output the audio signal directly from the track selected by the track selector instead of the audio signal mixed by the mixing device.”

In an effort to expedite prosecution, it is believed that Korg fails to disclose the above recitations. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a solo mode selector and a solo channel selector for selecting a solo mode and a listening mode selector and a track selector for selecting a listening mode for listening to an audio signal in its raw or unprocessed state.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 and its dependent claims 9-11 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 12 and 13

New claims 12 and 13 recite “(g) selecting a solo mode; (h) selecting at least one of the plurality of input channels for the solo mode; (i) selecting a listening mode; (j) selecting at least one of the plurality of tracks of the recorder/reproducer; and (k) controlling the channel selector to select the input channel selected by the step (h) instead of the input channel originally selected by the step (a) for the solo mode, and controlling the output device to output the audio signal directly from the track selected by the step (j) instead of the audio signal mixed by the step (b).” It is believed that claims 12 and 13 are in condition for allowance, because Korg does not disclose all the above recited steps.

In the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are patentable over Korg.

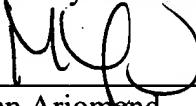
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032027100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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